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Title: Preface

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Citation style: Kubok Dariusz. (2015). Preface. "Folia Philosophica" (T. 34 (2015), s. 7-8).



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Preface

The tome hereby presented is the first special issue of *Folia Philosophica*. Monographic in character—as it concerns a variety of forms of criticism in the context of the development of science and philosophy—it is, at the same time, interdisciplinary, since the contributing authors represent diverse fields of scholarship. Owing to such an assumption, criticism—whether it is understood as an angle of reflection or as a cognitive attitude—is presented in a very broad perspective. Although the volume makes no claims to exhaustiveness, this multifaceted approach grants one an insight allowing for a better understanding of both the complexity of the concept itself and of the possible (and not always manifest) consequences of the application of criticism in cultural practice.

The aim of this volume is to offer the reader a reflection on the presence and significance of criticism in the European tradition of scholarship, science and philosophy. Criticism may be understood as an attitude which emphasizes one's ability to discriminate between various *areas of cognition* and to distinguish them from available *modes of cognition*; an attitude in which one's ability to pass judgments and form opinions is of primary importance, and, simultaneously, an attitude in which antidogmatism of stances is of central value. The significance of criticism does not solely manifest itself in the fact that it never ceases to be a serious theoretical challenge to scholars. Above all, its importance is testified to by its palpable, multifaceted contribution to the understanding—and shaping—of many areas of social life. Today, however, positions

characterized by a marked deficit of critical attitude seem to proliferate: the detrimental results of this process are already visible in contemporary culture. This is why the insights offered in this volume are important: it is intended to open space for a deeper understanding of criticism and its role, as well as to propagate values related to the application of critical thinking, in various areas of human experience.

Dariusz Kubok

(Translated by Krystyna Warchał)